

IRRIGATED LANDS REGULATORY PROGRAM UPDATE

July 2017

This month's Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program update provides a summary of significant activities of the State Water Board from June 15, 2017 to July 15, 2017 and the Central Valley Water Board from May 15, 2017 to July 15, 2017. Next month's report will present activities of the North Coast, San Francisco Bay, Central Coast, Los Angeles, Lahontan, Colorado River Basin, Santa Ana, and San Diego Water Board programs and cover the time period from June 15, 2017 to August 15, 2017.

STATE WATER BOARD:

On June 19, 2017, Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program staff (staff) and Fee Unit staff met with poultry dischargers to discuss fee schedule revisions for the 2017-18 fiscal year.

On June 20, 2017, staff met with California Association of Sanitary Agencies representatives to discuss some growers' hesitance to use biosolids as fertilizer in contrast to other growers that support the use of biosolids as fertilizers.

On June 22, 2017, staff participated in a workshop to discuss agricultural-related groundwater recharge and recycled water use. The workshop reviewed the status of the WaterReuse Research Foundation 16-03 Groundwater Recharge with Recycled Water on Agricultural Lands in California white paper effort. Potential regulatory issues and solutions with implementation of agricultural groundwater recharge-recycled water projects were also discussed.

On June 26, 2017, staff participated in a California Bioresources Alliance steering committee meeting to finalize the agenda for the November 1-2, 2017 Annual Symposium. The symposium title is "Building California's Sustainable Bioresource Economy."

On July 12, 2017, staff participated in a California Roundtable on Agriculture and the Environment forum. Discussion included a presentation from Dave Metz, a consultant with FM3 who has researched public opinion about agriculture and working lands in California on behalf of the Environmental Defense Fund and others, and with the California Almond Board about their work understanding public perception of agriculture in California. Discussions involved developing a shared systems perspective on underpinning positive and negative perceptions of California agriculture in order to develop a shared concept for how to portray agriculture as a partner in delivering California's quality of life and identify next steps. In addition, the group reviewed an initial set of key messages on the Farm Bill based on the roundtable discussion, and discussed an update on the Farm Bill Reception fall meeting schedule.

On July 13, 2017, staff participated in a Certified Crop Advisers meeting to discuss the results of the last exam.

REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARDS:

Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Water Board) staff holds quarterly stakeholder meetings to provide an open forum for communication between staff, agricultural coalitions, environmental justice groups, and other interested parties in the Central

Valley Region. The July 12, 2017 stakeholder meeting focused on the recent Bovine and Dairy General Orders and their overlap with the Irrigated Lands Regulatory Program.

During the June 8, 2017 Central Valley Water Board Meeting, the Board heard an information item on the Management Practices Evaluation Program (MPEP). The MPEP is required to identify if management practices are protective of groundwater and estimate the effect of agricultural discharges on groundwater quality.

Central Valley Water Board staff concentrated compliance, outreach, and enforcement efforts in agricultural parcel inspections, Water Code section 13260 Directives, Notices of Violation for failure to respond to a Water Code section 13260 Directive and failure to comply with Orders, Pre-Administrative Civil Liability Notification Letters, and Administrative Civil Liability Complaints.

Additional information can be found at the following link:

http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley/water_issues/irrigated_lands/index.shtml